



# Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



## January 2023

## Holidays, Elections & Events

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**1/23** - WinterHeat all month (see last issue)

**2/11/23** - State ARES Meeting - GPSTC

**2/13-17/23** - School Club Roundup

**2/25/23** Dalton Hamfest - Dalton  
[www.facebook.com/DaltonAmateurRadioClub/](https://www.facebook.com/DaltonAmateurRadioClub/)

**3/18/23** - Sevier County (TN) Hamfest

**4/1-2/23** - Georgia Park POTA Day

**6/3/23** - Atlanta Hamfest [www.atlantahamfest.org](https://www.atlantahamfest.org)

**Georgia on My Mind** is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at [GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com) before the 5th of each month.

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind**:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IDOPUoxeBBLii8coZB6fDrLYbaI9\\_9pN?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IDOPUoxeBBLii8coZB6fDrLYbaI9_9pN?usp=sharing)

### **ARES Annual State Meeting: Saturday February 11th**

Haven't registered for the ARES State Meeting on February 11th? Please do not wait until the last minute. Registration online before the State Meeting is an indicator of real interest and determines whether there is adequate reason for our use of the Public Training Center. The Georgia Public Safety Training Center is centrally located for the State, easily accessed, and sponsored by the State of Georgia at little cost for the benefit of organizations that are themselves beneficial to the public.

Click [HERE](#) for instructions to register.

Click [HERE](#) for preliminary meeting schedule

### **International Ham Activity**

BBC 5 just released a fascinating documentary about Volodymyr Gurtovy (Vlad), US7IGN, and how he's using radio during wartime in Kyiv, Ukraine. This is a non-technical feature, something cool to share with your non-ham friends.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001qj61>

He also released a short book about his experiences, which is written in diary format and available on Amazon. I'm reading it now.

War Diaries - A Radio Amateur in Kyiv

<https://www.amazon.com/War-Diaries-Radio-Amateur-Kyiv/dp/B0BM3L1YL1/>

As emergency communicators, this really takes the hobby to a new level.

Joe Domaleski, KI4ASK

# Radio Club News

**Coastal Amateur Radio Society** of Savannah is looking forward to an active new year. The new leadership team consists of Jack NW4TF, Mike KN4SPL, Lowell NY4D, Bryan N4GSP, and Billy KG4SZS. Sadly, we have lost several local hams: Steve K4SDJ, Ralph W4REQ, and Card N4ROX. We are working to try to dispose of our SKs equipment for the families.

For 2022:

We were able to continue testing after the loss of Steve with Bryan stepping up as the new VEC and were able to license several new hams and up graded several existing hams during our test sessions. We are scheduled to host four sessions next year. One was able to go from none to extra in one sitting.

Our "NO Work Club" were able to hold POTA activations at Wormsloe or Fort Pulaski most Wednesday mornings taking turns operating or logging for a couple of hours. Many came just for visit. The club hosted monthly a POTA Activation at Fort Pulaski. The exact number of contacts is unknown but there were plenty, somewhere between 30 to 100 plus each time. A good time was had by all.

Unfortunately, Steve ran our ARES program and is greatly missed, as of yet no replacement locally has been named.

Mike KM4SPL received the "Ham of the Year" award for his work to maintain Echolink on two our repeaters and getting the 147.33 repeater tied to the Georgia Conference.

**Cherokee County Amateur Radio Society** has been really active this past year. We had our annual Christmas/New Year celebration on December 10 with about 60 people in attendance!

Martin Buehring, Club President, shared a presentation the reviewed the entire years worth of activities. As a club we tested 53 people and all but 3 passed for a new license or upgrade! Additionally, we honored John Reynolds (W4TXA) who made the VE Honor Role. This was shown in the December issue of QST. John has run over 325 testing sessions.

Most remarkable news was that the Cherokee club had held 10 hands-on workshops throughout 2022. Members were very enthusiastic about these and look forward to more in 2023. The largest attended workshop was to build 2m tape measure antennas. We had 21 people participate in that build.

The annual election of officers was also help on December 10, 2022. Election Results for the club are as follows:

President - Martin Buehring - KB4MG  
Vice President - Chad Cone - KY4KP  
Treasurer - James James - KE4HMS  
Secretary - Mark Schulze - KO4IFY

The club will be participating in Winter Field Day from Red Top Mountain State Park. We are planning to use the club callsign (WX4CAR). Since this is also a POTA ( K-2194) site, so we will be collecting credit for that was well. We are expecting 10-15 participants, depending on weather and availability. The plan is to operate SSB, digital, and CW modes.

Plans for 2023 are to support the Georgia Death Race in March. This has been a very popular public service event for the club. We have many other activities on the drawing board.





# Radio Club News

The Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) held its annual officer and Board of Directors election during the month of November. James Akey (KM4IKO) stepped down from his multi-year role as club secretary, and Joe Wheeler (aka General Joe) (W4UEM) took his place. James will remain on our board. Lee McDaniel (WB4QOJ) also joined our board. All other incumbents continue in their roles.

To illustrate that the HAM part of Ham Radio is proof that amateur radio operators like to eat, we held our annual club Christmas/Holiday party at Rodney's Barbeque in New Hope. We had a great turn out and fellowship, and the food and door prizes were a hit!

Each year in October SCARS hosts an AM Broadcast Contest where participants listen and log AM broadcast stations. This year we added (during the same month) a POTA contest where operators logged the number of parks they activated as well as activator and hunter contacts. While we were having fun activating in remote areas, we were also practicing our skills regarding remote deployment and operation in case we are needed during disasters and events.

Awards for the two contests were announced at the Christmas party. John Reynolds (W4TXA) won the AM Broadcast Station contest after logging 212 AM broadcast stations. His success may or may not have been influenced by the fact that he used a weather balloon as his antenna support! The winner of the POTA contest was Greg Fortune. Greg activated a total of 38 parks and WMAs and had a total of 2,842 activator and 212 hunter contacts. Wow! Congratulations to both John and Greg!

Coming up on March 11 SCARS will be hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Day In The Park at Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Historic Site in Paulding County. At our first Day In The Park we had several POTA activators in the parking lot demonstrating their portable operation and making contacts. After a morning of POTA activation and following lunch, we had seminars on portable antennas, baluns, and portable stations. We had great feedback from the first event, and we're looking forward to Round 2. All are welcome to attend.

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) VE-Team 2022 Year-End Summary This year, we examined 127 applicants at our 12 monthly exam sessions, 3 ham cram exam sessions, and one McConnell Middle School exam session. It would have been more had we had our annual TechFest exam session too. And, let's not forget that we helped the AMRC VE-Team to examine another 36 applicants at the Stone Mountain Hamfest. In total, that's 163 applicants!

Every VE on the Team deserves a "pat on the back" for a JOB WELL DONE!!! These results clearly indicate that our exam session applicant counts have recovered to pre COVID-19 levels. In fact, if we had a TechFest exam session in 2022, I feel our applicant counts would have rivaled our all time high applicant counts. I want to thank every Volunteer Examiner on the GARS VE-Team for volunteering their time throughout the year as Volunteer Examiners. I know all of our applicants greatly appreciate it, as do I.

73 - Dave, W4DTR GARS VE-Team Leader  
<https://gars.org/exams/>

## Upcoming Events:

- 2-Day Technician Ham Cram Saturday, March 25th, and Sunday, March 26th, 8am to 4pm each day
  - 2-Day General Ham Cram Saturday, April 29th, and Sunday, April 30th, 8am to 4pm each day
- Register for each class on <https://GARS.org/>

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## Tricounty Amateur Radio Club

Congratulations to Tom, KM4YJX (left) and Bryan, KO4ZDC (right) on their upgrade to General!



# Radio Club News

## Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

Congratulations to Kelly Norton, K4DDE who was voted the Ham of the Year, 2022. Kelly has given several programs through the year. POTA, D-Star and APRS to name a few. With his passion for activating parks. He has pulled many a ham into working POTA. Either hunting and or activating.

This year was also the beginning of a new design for that award. Ed Walraven, KM4IOA (center) designed a carved wooden plaque for this year's award. Thank you Ed. It looks great.

Allen Gilreath, WB4ZIF club President (left) looks on. Allen will be stepping down at the end of the year. Thanks goes to Allen for his leadership this year.



## Etowah Valley Amateur Radio Club



Bruce Poore, KO4ESS earned his Extra and is now an ARRL VE

## Fayette County Amateur Radio Club

The building of a Hexbeam antenna. It is portable. The legs are three pieces and it folds up to a 4 ft package minus the tripod. It is a kit so I am building it. Set it up outside and got two bands on it yesterday. It only weighs 10lbs or so. I have not measured it, but I think it is 20ft radius.

*Steve White, KA8MKX*





# Radio Club News

## Atlanta Radio Club



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
in the Park  
at Brook  
Run in  
Dunwoody



The Bill Gremillion Memorial Radio Club (established in 1972) in Newnan, GA, changed its name this year. Even though we are still officially the Bill Gremillion Memorial Radio Club, in August, our members voted to add a Doing Business As (DBA) to our official name. Our club is now officially the Bill Gremillion Memorial Radio Club dba Newnan Regional Amateur Radio Club (NRARC). We will use Newnan Regional Amateur Radio Club going forward. We believe this name better reflects the area we serve and our mission to support the advancement of amateur radio in the area covered by our linked repeater network. Updates to our website will happen this year.

In addition, our club moved one of our repeaters from Douglasville to Turin and linked four of our five repeaters. This linking gives us a large coverage footprint in the region. Our repeater list may be found here <https://bgmrc.org/repeaters>.

We held elections for 2023 in October with the following results:

Gary Beckstedt - WB4GBM, President  
Beth Walker - KB4BAW, Vice President  
Rick Melville - KK4DDK, Secretary  
Walter Jones, Jr. - KN4NQX, Treasurer  
Frank Kimball - KK4YTM, Member at Large



The Jasper Radio Club celebrated the season with a large pot luck for their December meeting, during which the following officers were elected:  
President: Frank Dean, K4SJR  
V Pres: Rick Hillstead, N4RAH  
Secretary: Bill Zercher, KM4MTM  
Treasurer: Charles Spradlin, N4NGA





# Winter Field Day

## Jan 28-29

<https://winterfieldday.com/>

Winter Field Day is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to the ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more.

### Cherokee County

Winter Field Day will be operating from Red Top Mountain State Park. We are planning to use the club callsign (WX4CAR). Since this is also a POTA (K-2194) site, so we will be collecting credit for that as well. We are expecting 10-15 participants, depending on weather and availability. The plan is to operate SSB, digital, and CW modes.

### Athens Radio Club

For the 3rd year, the Athens Radio Club will host Winter Field Day at Watson Mill Bridge State Park on January 28-29, 2023. The club has rented cabins 1 & 2. We will operate 2 or 3 stations, and you are invited to come out and operate for WFD and POTA. As always, this will be a family friendly event and an opportunity for you to share the hobby with friends and family. We will be working as W4G



# Ham Saves Hiker In Cherokee Forest

On Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 after helping with the Christmas parade that morning, I went on my normal weekend Parks on the Air activation rove. I was at my second park, Georgia Veterans State Park. As I was finishing up, I heard someone call "standby for an emergency call!" I wasn't sure what was happening at first, but I stopped my QSO and asked for the station to go ahead.

Wes, KE4SJM said that he was in the Cherokee National forest and had no cell phone coverage. He indicated that there was a serious medical injury and that he needed some help with that situation. After a few minutes, I asked if there was anyone else that could copy him. However, no one else answered so I offered to do what I could for him. Knowing I was at a park 2 states away, with low battery power on my radio and my cell phone, I was worried that I was not going to be able to keep my radio on much longer.

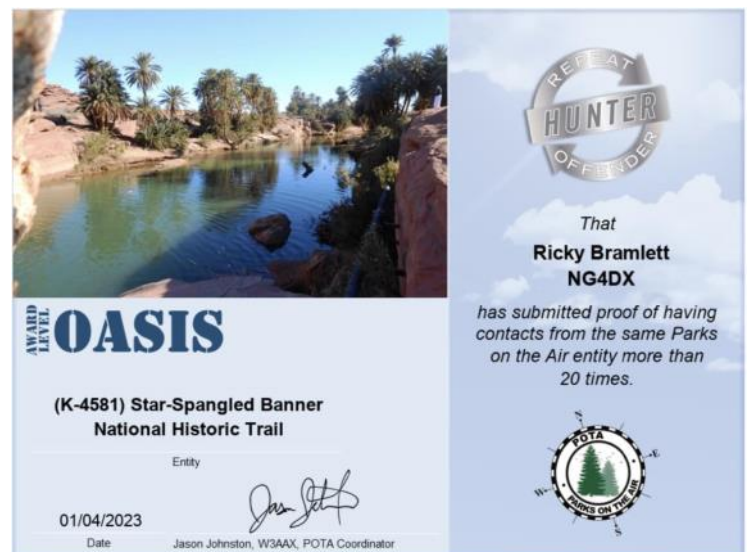
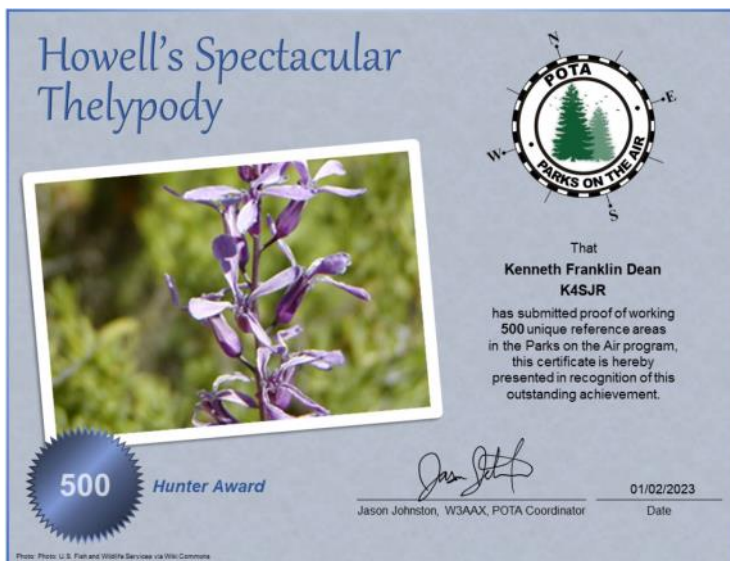
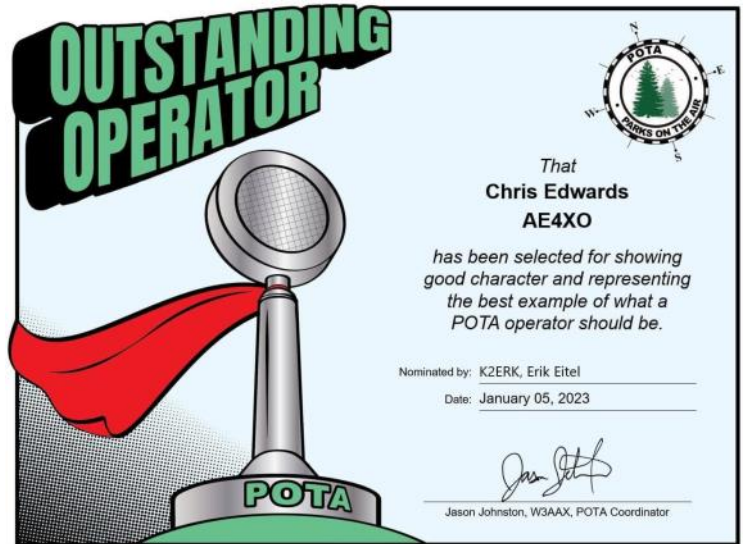
Wes said that John (another ham radio operator) and the injured person were on the way to the hospital in Murphy, NC. It was a serious injury. Over the course of about 40 minutes, I was able to find the phone number for the hospital. Wes gave me John's number so that the hospital could call him and determine what they needed to do. I was able to contact the hospital in NC and relay the information to them. After about 30 more minutes I called back. The ER told me that they were able to call John and they were enroute. They reassured John he was heading to the right hospital. The staff was even waiting at the doors when they arrived.

We kept the 40m frequency held for the emergency and other hams were listening to us talking back and forth. At the beginning, I could tell Wes was very anxious about what had happened. As we talked, I think he calmed down just knowing that John was now on the way and the hospital knew they were coming, and ready for their arrival. After I got back in touch with the hospital, I told Wes that they were able to call John. I released the frequency back to normal use, as we say. Wes thanked me for helping him and keeping him company. There were other hams that were talking to him as I shutdown my station. The injured person was able to get the medical attention they needed.

**Chris Edwards, AE4XO**

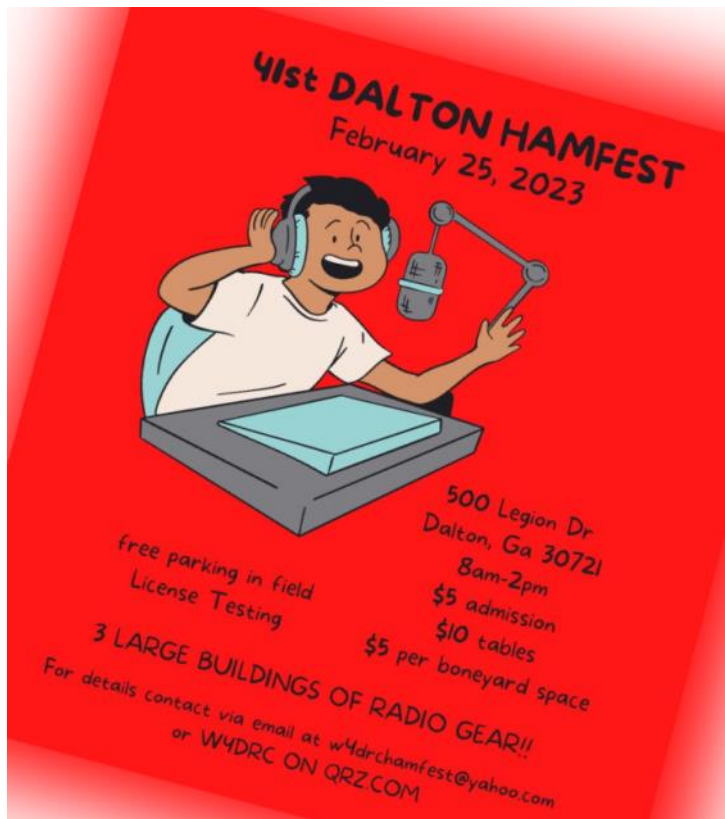
*See picture of POTA award on p.*

# POTA Awards





# Dots, Dashes & Tidbits



Mark the Date! On the weekend of April 1-2, 2023, there will be state-wide POTA activations of all 50 Georgia State Parks! The idea is to enlist enough hams from all over to fan out across the state and activate 50 parks over the course of that one weekend. We will have a website where details, signups, etc., will be posted. In the meantime, keep an eye on the event description and comments on the "Georgia Ham Radio Portable" Facebook page: Georgia State Parks on the Air.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/539409114342595>

## Georgia Section Nets

### **ARES Phone & Digital Nets**

Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at [gaares.org](http://gaares.org) – Select Nets & Frequencies

### **Georgia Section ARES Net:**

Section Net Manager – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

[kn4qj@arri.net](mailto:kn4qj@arri.net)

Net control operator – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

Alt. net control operator – Jim Altman, W4UCK

### **Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:**

Section Digital Net Manager, Don Jones, K4GO

[k4go@arri.net](mailto:k4go@arri.net)

Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.

**Winlink** Team Lead, Russell Prevost, AB4QQ

Net control operators: Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Mark Bell N7GRB, Bill Hall K9HRO

**PSK & Traffic Nets** Team Lead, Del Davis, W4DEL  
Net control operators: Bob Garza K4TLG, Don Jones K4GO Ken Wallis KM4HOS, Richard Austin W4BYT

**D-RATS Net** Team Lead, Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ  
Net control operators: Rial Sloan AI4ZV, Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Ed Walraven KM4IOA, Carter Grant KN4KBL

## **A.R.E.S. Monthly Report for December 2022**

Number of DECs/ECs reporting - 49

Number of ARES nets - 1688

Nets with NTS liaison - 4

Number of Exercises &

Training Sessions - 600 (1978 hrs.)

Number of Public Service events - 9 (272 hrs.)

Number of Emergency Operations - 3 (9 hrs.)

Number of SkyWarn Operations - 6 (44 hrs.)

**Total of Exercises & Events 618**

**Total of person hours 2303**

**GEORGIA STATE  
PARKS ON THE  
AIR**

April 1-2, 2023

